



[17306/101]

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : George Nelson BLISS et al.  
Serial No. : 09/849,006  
Filed : May 4, 2001  
For : APPARATUS FOR RELEASING ITEMS WITHIN A  
CONFINED SPACE  
Examiner : Paul T. Chin  
Art Unit : 3652  
Confirmation No. : 1810

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

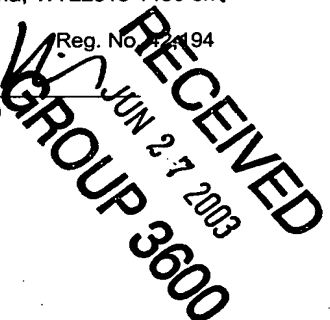
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with  
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Washington, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

Date: June 20, 2003

Reg. No. 17306/101

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Clifford A. Ulrich



**AMENDMENT**

S I R:

In response to the Office Action of December 20, 2002, kindly amend  
the above-captioned application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

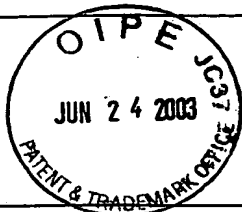
On page 1, replace the paragraph starting on line 2 with the following  
replacement paragraph:

--This is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/484,340, filed  
on January 18, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,237,978, which is a continuation-in-part  
of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/008,685, filed on January 16, 1998, now  
U.S. Patent No. 6,056,341, each of which is incorporated herein in its entirety by  
reference thereto.--

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 5, 7, 13, 14, 19, 21 and 23, without prejudice,  
as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for gripping and releasing at least one item,  
comprising:  
a pickup head;



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

3652  
7-8-03

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Docket Number  
17306/101

Application Number  
09/849,006

Filing Date  
May 4, 2001

Examiner  
Paul T. Chin

Art Unit  
3652

Confirmation No.  
1810

Invention Title  
**APPARATUS FOR RELEASING ITEMS  
WITHIN A CONFINED SPACE**

Inventor(s)  
**BLISS, et al.**

Address to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: Date: June 20, 2003 Reg. No. Signature: *Clifford A. Ulrich* (Clifford A. Ulrich)

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Transmitted herewith for filing in the above-identified patent application is the following:

1. Amendment in response to the December 20, 2002 Office Action.
2. Applicants respectfully request a **three-month** extension of time in which to respond to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2002, for which a three month response period expiring on March 20, 2003 was set. The three-month extended period expires on June 20, 2003. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the **three-month extension fee of \$930.00**, and any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of **Kenyon & Kenyon**, deposit account number **11-0600**.
3. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Dated: June 20, 2003

By: *Clifford A. Ulrich*  
Clifford A. Ulrich (Reg. No. 42,194)

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01 FC:1253 930.00 DA

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